St. Paul's, St. Gabriel Catt. Ch. of

THE DIMENSIONS AND CURIOSITIES OF ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON,

WHICH was begun to be rebuilt in the year 1675, and was finiſhed in the year 1715, including the ſpace of 40 years *. It was begun and finiſhed by Sir Chriſtopher Wren, the chief architect; by one Mr. Strong, the principal maſon; and under Dr. Compton, then biſhop of London. One Mr. Hill was chiefly employed in the decorations of this church, in carving the lively repreſentation of St. Paul's converſion; the majeſtic figure of St. Paul on the apex of the pediment, with St. Peter on his right hand, and St. James on his left; and the four Evangeliſts, with their proper emblems, on the front of the tower, &c.

St. Matthew is diſtinguiſhed by an Angel, St. Mark by a Lion, St. Luke by an Ox, and St. John by an Eagle.

The charge of building this Cathedral, which amounted to fifteen hundred thouſand pounds, was chiefly ſupported by a ſmall and eaſy tax on ſea coals.

* St. Peter's at Rome continued in building one hundred and forty-five years, under twelve ſucceſſive architects.

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	Feet
The dimensions of St. Paul's from east to west, within the walls	510
From north to south within the doors of the porticoes	282
The breadth at the west entrance	100
Its circuit	2292
Its height within, from the centre of the floor to the cross	404
The circumference of the Dome is	420
The diameter of the Ball	6
From the Ball to the top of the Cross	39
The diameter of the columns of the porticoes	4
Their height is	48
To the top of the west pediment under the figure of St Paul	120
Of the tower of the west front	287

1st. From the bottom of the whispering gallery is 280 steps, including those to the golden gallery, is 534, and to the ball, in all, is 616 steps.

The weight of the ball is 5600 pounds.

The weight of the cross is 3360.

The extent of the ground plat wherein St. Paul's stands, is two acres, sixteen perches, twenty-three yards, and one foot. This vast fabric is surrounded at a proper distance with strong iron palliſadoes, in number about 2500; and in the area of the grand west front, on a pedestal of excellent workmanship, stands a statue of Queen Anne, with proper decorations:

tions; the figure on the base represents Britannia with her spear, Gallia with a crown on her lap; Hibernia with her harp; America with her bow; all of the workmanship of the same ingenious statuary that performed the rest.

The library is remarkable for its flooring, it being most artfully inlaid, without nail or peg, like the framing of a billiard table. The wainscoting and cases for books want neither elegance nor convenience; there is a fine painting of Bishop Compton, under whom this cathedral was built.

The next is a very curious geometry staircase, being the best ever made in England; it hath ninety steps, all supported by the bottom step.

There is a very curious fine model, which Sir Christopher Wren first caused to be made, in order to have built this cathedral in every respect like it.

The great bell in weight is 11474 pounds; the clapper is 180 pounds; the diameter of the bell is 10 feet, on which the hour of the clock strikes; and the quarters strike on two lesser bells underneath.

The length of the minute hand, 8 feet.

The weight of ditto 75 pounds.

The length of the hour hand, 5 feet, 5 inches.

The weight of ditto forty-four pounds.

The length of the hour figures two feet, two inches and a half.

The circumference of the dial is 57 feet.

There is a curious fine whiſpering gallery, where ſounds are enlarged to an amazing degree; the ſhutting of the door ſeems as loud as thunder at a diſtance; the leaſt whiſper is heard round the whole circumference; and one ſpeaking againſt the wall appears to be preſent to another on the other ſide, though the diſtance between them is no leſs than 140 feet.

Within this gallery you have a fine view of the curious paintings, done by Sir James Thornhill; who in eight compartments has repreſented the principal paſſages in the hiſtory of St. Paul's life, namely, his converſion; his puniſhing Elymas the ſorcerer with blindneſs; his preaching at Athens; his curing the poor cripple at Lyſtra, and the reverence there paid him by the prieſts of Jupiter as a God; his converſion of the goaler; his preaching at Epheſus, and the burning of the magic books in conſequence of the miracle he there wrought; his trial before Agrippa; his ſhipwreck on the iſland of Milita or Malta; and his miracle of the viper.

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